THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The Government is in the process of formulating the scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to provide universal elementary education of satisfactory quality for all by 2010. Planning activities have been initiated and the scheme is likely to be operationalised in the current financial year. No State-wise allocation has been made under this scheme.

Task Force for women

716. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up the Task Force for women in terms of assurance given in the General Budget for 2000-2001.

(b) if so, the details thereof and its terms of reference;

(c) whether some objectives and functions have been laid down;

(d) if so, the details thereof, with time limit fixed, to achieve the proposed objectives;

(e) whether the functions and jurisdiction of the said Task Force would overlap with the functions of the National Commission for Women; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Recommendations of NCW amending women related laws

717. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recommendations made by the National Commission for Women relating to amendment of Laws dealing with women's issues;

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(b) the details of recommendations referred to in part above implemented so far; and

(c) the time limit fixed to implement the remaining recommendations of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Out of 39 laws dealing with women's issues, the National Commission for Women has so far reviewed the following 12 legislations and made proposals regarding their amendments:-

1. Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.
2. The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987.
3. Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.
4. Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986.
5. Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.
6. The Family Courts Act, 1984.
7. Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929.
8. The Guardians and Wards Act, 1890.
9. Indian Succession Act, 1925.
10. The Married Women's Right to Property Act, 1874.
11. Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.
12. Foreign Marriage Act, 1969.

The proposals received from NCW have been forwarded to the concerned Ministries/Departments for appropriate action.

(b) The Commission's recommendation regarding removal of 'epilepsy' as a ground for divorce from the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 has been implemented.

(c) Review of legislation is a continuous process involving consultations with various Ministries/Departments and the State Governments. It is, therefore, not practicable to lay down any time limit to implement the recommendations of the NCW on amendments

of laws dealing with women.

Survey for Gulbarga to Bhiguvan

718. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey for doubling the line from Gulbarga to Bhiguvan was taken and what is the progress so far made in it;

(b) whether the survey and cost estimation in regard to Solapur-Pakni portion thereof has been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether in view of the pressing need for decongesting and diverting railway traffic from Solapur, due priority would be accorded to doubling this part first; if so, by when it would be accorded to doubling this first; if so, by when it would be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) A survey for doubling of line from Gulbarga to Bhiguvan, which includes the section from Pakni to Solapur, is in progress in phases. Survey from Bhiguvan to Jeur (48 km.) has been completed and the survey report is under preparation. The cost of the complete project will be available and consideration of taking up the various phases of the project would be possible, once the survey report becomes available.

Fee hike for higher education

†719. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given approval to the fee hike in the field of higher education;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard and the percentage of proposed fee hike; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.